PRESS RELEASE

Secondary School Teachers Learn How to Use Computers in the Classroom

2,838 secondary school teachers from all 91 secondary schools in Macedonia have completed training programs focused on how to use computers to teach subjects such as math, science, and foreign languages. Sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia, the training programs introduced some of the most up-to-date teaching methods used in the United States and Europe.

The successful completion of the ambitious program, which took two years to achieve, will be marked by a ceremony attended by USAID Director of Education Office Dwaine Lee and Deputy Minister of Education and Science Jovan Lazarov.

USAID's e-Schools training curriculum has given teachers the ability to use project-based learning, in which students are assigned projects that involve the use of Microsoft PowerPoint, Publisher and Front Page applications, as well as the Internet and blogs. In addition, teachers have learned to use computers to prepare lesson plans, develop innovative lessons, and communicate with other colleagues and educational institutions. Finally, students have been encouraged to use computer technology to communicate amongst themselves.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than $450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth $30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov

Over the past three years, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, the e-Schools project has installed 5,300 computers donated by the People's Republic of China in all public schools in the Republic of Macedonia. The project also has:
- conducted Basic Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) skills training for 1,902 secondary school teachers;
- translated and adapted "ToolKid educational software" for use by K-4 children and donated it to 100 primary schools throughout Macedonia;
- helped create the first educational web portal in Macedonia (www.schools.edu.mk), which enables the exchange of information, materials and experiences among teachers and students in primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions.

Currently, the project is providing "ICT use in primary schools" training, planning to reach over 5,000 teachers.